

during the forty days of mourning, a boat with awnings goes up river the mourners have a right to call to the boat and ask for alms (*minta sedika*). If the people in the boat do not comply, they can be fined a "Gangsa" or some other brass utensil. Also, if a person strikes a gong (other than those used for mourning) near the house, on land or on the river, he can be fined. Boats going down river are not required to give alms. The old people say that at night when the *salang* is burning, if the flame burns low, it is a sign that a boat is passing the house with a fowl on board. They then have to call the boat and take some of the fowl's feathers to rekindle the flame. If they neglect to do this, the candle will go out, which signifies bad luck. The above custom refers to married people only.

The Bisayas believe in a future state, which takes the form of a life similar to this, but under more beneficial terms. They think that the land to which they will go will be richer and more fertile than their present abode, and that there they will meet all those who have gone before. They also believe that there is a wonderful tree growing there which has every kind of fruit growing on it, and a branch for each kind; also that as fast as the fruit falls more fruit springs out of its branches.

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Note on a Penggang "Melegong."

This plate originally belonged to a Treng woman who was captured by a Mitting man in a raid; afterwards, these tribes made peace, and the Mitting man married his captive, who was of high birth (*bangsa Rajah*). The offspring of this marriage was Aban Tassan, of Batu Blah, the last owner of the plate.

The plate is curious on account of the chips made in its rim. This chipping apparently was a well-known Treng custom, and at the death of the owner of any property such as a plate or a jar, a chip was made in the rim (or in the case of a jar an ear was knocked off), in memory of the occasion and also as deceased's share of this property. This performance could only be done by a chief or an old man who had taken a head, and it was made the occasion of a feast and typical native debauch; a present was made to the man who performed the ceremony.

The Trengs and Mittings are two of the older established

tribes of Borneo, and inhabited respectively districts on the Tutau and Tinjar rivers, tributaries of the Baram. They are practically extinct now.

The same curious custom occurs amongst the Alfours or Alfuros in the Molucca Islands, bowls or plates being slightly chipped in honour of the spirits of the departed ones, and also as their share of the property.*

C. D. ADAMS.

Measurements of some Dusuns.

On my expedition to Mt. Kinabalu, British North Borneo, I stayed several days in the Dusun village of Kiau, which is built on one of the spurs of the mountain, some 3000 ft. above sea-level. This village became my base, from which the ascent was made, as well as other excursions to different parts of the mountain. The natives of the village acted as carriers on these occasions, and I saw a good deal of them in one way and another; for instance, seeing that natural history specimens were the object of my visit, they used to swarm into my quarters at all hours of the day, to bring me plants, insects, and odds and ends, for which I doled out innumerable cents, wads of gambier, reels of cotton, needles, matches, &c.; then they used to take me to their houses to have a quiet talk sometimes, or perhaps to spend a cheery evening, enlivened with dances, beating of gongs, and a rather pleasant intoxicant made from fermented coconut water.

They were a friendly, hospitable lot, and I took the opportunity of measuring seventy-five of them, with the idea of comparing the measurements of their height with that of their span. I also got them to stretch their hands on a ruler and then noted in millimeters the measurement of their stretch from thumb to little finger. They made no objection to this performance, but treated the whole thing as a joke, the "patient" for the moment usually becoming the object of good-humoured gibes from his or her friends standing by.

The following three tables show the measurements of (1) forty-five adult men, (2) twenty boys, and (3) ten adult women.

* Vide *Java, Sumatra, and other islands of the Dutch East Indies*, by A. Cabaton.